

New York Tribune.

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1915.

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You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety—for if dissatisfaction results in any case THE TRIBUNE guarantees to pay your money back upon request. No red tape, no quibbling. We make good promptly if the advertiser does not.

Unnecessary Direct Tax.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the value of the service George McAneny has rendered to the people of this city—to the taxpayers, the rent payers, to the people who own their own homes and those who live in the crowded tenements—by his statement last night setting forth the actual condition of state finance in its relation to city tax rates.

The Tribune said the other day that no direct tax was necessary. Mr. McAneny in his statement last night said:

Notwithstanding any new twist that may be given the figures under discussion, the facts underlying them are perfectly clear. The advisers of the Governor stated that at the end of the next fiscal year—if the needs they set forth were properly provided for—the State Treasury would face a cash deficiency of \$18,800,000. Actually, as the checking up of the City Controller's accounts has shown, if every item included in the Governor's statement stands, excepting only the \$4,000,000 proposed for capital outlay on canal construction, there would be in the treasury at the end of the next fiscal year not a deficiency but a cash balance of \$406,000.

A few weeks ago Governor Whitman formally notified the Legislature that a direct tax of \$18,000,000 would be necessary this year. The city's share of this would be \$13,300,000; the increase in the tax rate next year 16 points. Summoned post haste to Albany, when the inaccuracy of the Governor's figures became patent, the Controller of the city, with the aid of his experts, discerned a possible deficit of \$5,300,000, obtained through operations more ingenious than convincing.

It was left to the President of the Board of Aldermen to speak for the interests of this town, since the Governor and the Controller, both residents of it, confused political questions with financial—listened to advisers who were more concerned with the question of the state campaign of 1916 than with the tax rate in New York City in that year. Mr. McAneny has performed his duty in a straightforward and convincing fashion, which will close the debate on the question of fact.

But, unfortunately, the question of politics remains. Now, as in the years of the Republican supremacy in this state of a decade ago, the power to tax this city, the power to oppress, burden, penalize, rests with an upstart majority of the Legislature, on whom the problems of the millions of people in this crowded city seem to weigh lightly.

Recognizing this fact, Mr. McAneny has appealed to the representatives of both the Democratic and the Republican parties at Albany to unite to oppose, to defeat the present effort to impose unjust and unnecessary burdens upon those who live in the greater city.

Such an appeal should awaken instant and unanimous support. It is assured of the response of the Democrats, for whom the political opportunity is patent, unmistakable. But can the Republicans afford to give a response less prompt, less unanimous? For the Democrats it is a case of political advantage; for the Republicans of New York City it is less than a question of life and death?

If the programme outlined by Governor Whitman is carried out \$13,300,000 will be added to the budget of New York City. By so much will the funds available for improving conditions of life, of comfort, of safety in this town be reduced. To waste and extravagance will be dedicated sums needed in New York, and this will be done without the smallest warrant.

With what appeal to the electorate next fall will the Republican legislators from metropolitan districts come up for re-election if they endure such an attack upon the city passively? If the programme is carried out it will be hard enough to elect Republicans in New York City next fall, even if the candidates have fought the present project. But if they do not, who can question the outcome?

The Tribune is a Republican newspaper. It believes there is room and opportunity in this city for a real Republican organization. It perceives that recent defeats have shattered Tammany Hall and brought it to the very edge of extinction. On all sides there are evident circumstances which promise that, if Republicans grasp their opportunities, New York City will at last have an effective, virile, powerful Republican organization, supported by the confidence and sympathy of a majority of the citizens.

All these prospects may be destroyed if the local organization, the Republican legislators at Albany patiently submit to party machine and caucus and become accessories to the vicious project to mulct the taxpayers of this town solely for political reasons.

whole volume of statistics has been supplied Mr. McAneny has contributed the only figures necessary to solve the problem. The \$18,000,000 of prospective deficit gives way to a promised surplus of \$406,000. The Republican legislators can abolish this, but can they explain such an achievement to those who will have to pay for it in the next tax rate of New York City?

For the Small Board.

Along with the reporting of Senator Cromwell's bill reducing the membership of New York City's Board of Education to nine comes word that legislative sentiment is against it and it is to be slaughtered. Why? This bill is an administrative measure, recommended by the Mayor and the Board of Estimate of New York City. Does that count for nothing, at Albany?

The present Board of Education is against this change. So far as can be judged, there are few other citizens who are. It is the experience of cities all over the country that the most efficient service is obtained from a small school board. New York has not gained anything from local representation in the large board. By maintaining it this city sacrifices unity, efficiency, concentration of responsibility.

Every atom of the principle of home rule demands that the Legislature let New York City make this change. Albany will be assuming a heavy responsibility if it vetoes New York's request on this matter.

Japan and China.

The representations made to Japan by the United States, Great Britain and Russia ought to have the effect of relieving the diplomatic pressure which Japan has recently been exerting on China. The present condition of turmoil the world over offers Japan a tempting opportunity to exact concessions from the weak and isolated Chinese Republic. The latter lacks military resources and has been dependent on the European powers and on the United States for moral support in working out its political future. By their concert its territorial integrity has been assured and an "open door" has been pledged to foreign commerce. The European war, however, has greatly diminished the security behind these guarantees.

Japan's interests as the great power of the Far East naturally commit her to a forward policy in China. For the help she has given Great Britain and Russia she expects some return after the war is over, and her compensation must be in the East, not in the West. China is in somewhat the same predicament as Turkey is in furnishing convenient material to be tossed into the grab bag at the next international conference. Japan evidently wants to put herself in a position to trade off some bad claims against China for a recognition of some more or less plausible ones.

If a Japanese army were now fighting in Europe the Allies would probably have to shut their eyes to Japanese aggression against China. Fortunately, that price does not have to be paid at present, and our own remonstrances, added to those of Great Britain and Russia, will probably be sufficient to stay Japan's hand. It would be most unfortunate for both Europe and America if the discords of the Great War should disturb the status quo in the Far East and shatter the guarantees of Chinese territorial integrity and freedom of commerce which have been the product of so much earnest and helpful diplomatic effort.

Great Britain Yields on the Blockade Issue.

In the two notes which it has just addressed to the United States the British government has made a notable concession to neutral opinion. It has virtually admitted that American representations in regard to the recent Order in Council were fully justified. That order undoubtedly outlined a course of action which, to use our State Department's phrase, was "previously unknown to international law."

An interdiction of German commerce was proclaimed, which amounted to a blockade, but was not called a blockade. It therefore left neutrals puzzled as to their status under it and as to the extent of its conflict with the established law of nations. That conflict might not have worked very much to the practical disadvantage of neutrals. Great Britain offered them easier conditions than could have been offered under the rules of the old-fashioned blockade. But the very irregularity and novelty of the British procedure made it a grave menace to the existing structure of neutral rights.

Now Great Britain has conceded the propriety of making her measure of reprisal against Germany conform more closely to international usage and precedent. She is willing to admit that she is establishing a formal blockade. In the note rejecting the suggestion of the United States that some compromise might be reached with Germany as to the conduct of war at sea, Sir Edward Grey said: "The British fleet has instituted a blockade, effectively controlling by cruiser 'cordon' all passage to and from Germany by sea." In the note of the same date, answering this country's inquiries as to the scope of the Order in Council, he said that the latter's object, "succinctly stated, is to establish a blockade to prevent vessels carrying goods for or coming from Germany."

These admissions will make it much easier for neutrals to adjust themselves to the new situation. No one can deny Great Britain's right to blockade German ports. So long as the responsibility of maintaining an actual blockade is assumed, it is of minor consequence just how the cordon of blockading vessels is drawn. The United States blockaded the ports of the Confederacy successfully without keeping vessels massed continuously at all the points of ingress and egress along the South's coast line. General conditions of warfare at sea must be taken into account in judging the effectiveness of a modern blockade. It will hardly be disputed that Great Britain, with the help of France, can actually seal up German ports, since neutral trade with these ports has been possible for some months past only with the tacit consent of the Allies.

This country will freely acknowledge the validity of a formal allied blockade. We know where we stand on that proposition, having ourselves carried through the most difficult blockade in history. We are willing to live up to our own record from 1861 to 1865. The main point of formal blockade having been conceded, we can readily harmonize our rights with the rights of the belligerents. All that we can ask is that the blockade shall be officially acknowledged to be what it is, that its area shall be a little more clearly defined, and that a similar blockade shall be declared against Austria-Hungary and Turkey, if the right to seize neutral vessels carrying enemy cargo of a non-contraband nature is also to be asserted in the Mediterranean.

Parade of the 29th.

Between the parade of the 29th Infantry, fresh from Panama, Tuesday, and that of the 30th Infantry, fresh from Alaska, six months ago, New York had seen no regulars marching. And last summer, before the 30th paraded, unless memory is at fault, five years had intervened since New Yorkers had reviewed a detachment of Uncle Sam's troops, on the occasion of the Hudson-Fulton celebration.

But if we see our regulars infrequently here in New York, how much less frequent, if any, are the glimpses to be got of them in the small interior towns, which contain the bulk of the country's population. Perhaps it is safe to say that the majority of Americans have never seen regulars on the march, and have formed their conception of the soldier from an occasional Fourth of July review of pale-faced militia or from the familiar file of Civil War veterans on Memorial Day. To see the hardy, sunburned fellows who make soldiering a business swing past in khaki is to get a wholly different impression of what constitutes a soldier; is to have borne in on one the truth of the warning, reiterated with all the emphasis at the command of our military experts, that raw recruits cannot compose a fighting force; that uniforms and guns are simply impediments to flight except when carried by trained men.

It is a pity for the sake of the object lesson involved, if for no other reason (and there are others), that a greater percentage of American citizens cannot view more often the striking display of military efficiency which the regulars present. But with only enough of them on the entire continent to fill the seats in the Yale Bowl, it is manifestly impossible to show them often or widely. Indeed, they would have to be multiplied by forty-eight, so that each state might have a Yale Bowl full, before the bulk of Americans could become reasonably familiar with their appearance. There exists, of course, no necessity for a force of such size. On the other hand, there need be no fear of militarism in America short of it.

Greed for Golden Eggs.

For several years New York City has had presented at Albany a bill for the taxation of its aqueduct lands in upstate counties at a rate no higher than that for other lands in the vicinity, the valuation not to include dams, aqueducts and other structures. Each year it has been killed by upstate votes. It seems no more likely to escape this year, for it has just been re-committed in the Assembly.

This bill seeks the merest justice for the taxpayers of this city. They originally paid high prices—very high prices—for these lands when they were acquired. There is no reason, in honesty and fair dealing, why they should be milked annually for many thousands of dollars in order to reduce the taxes of upstate voters who live in those counties where New York is a real estate owner. The metropolis is regarded by everybody north of the Harlem, apparently, as a prolific producer of golden eggs. New York is getting mighty tired of being that kind of a goose. It behooves the Republican leaders at Albany, if they have any regard for city support and city votes, to assimilate this wholesome truth and let it guide their future conduct.

Sunday baseball may not be exactly "one of God's blessings to the people in the big cities," as an enthusiastic Assemblyman termed it, but even the amateur games which are permitted here compare favorably in point of associations and morality with street-corner loafing and saloon-backroom haunting.

Under the latest interpretation of the law, every money-earning wife should forthwith obtain a contract from her husband ceding her wages to her, under penalty of a strike.

Vice-President Marshall is going to fly a naval ensign made especially in his honor. He is also equipped for saluting purposes with a duplicate of Josephus's cap?

New York may be becoming the world's financial center, but there are some of us who are unaware of it.

Boston, with its stockinged Greek dancers, still retains the medal for plain and fancy prudishness.

Throwing pennies into a crowd of bread-liners is paying too cheaply to see a fight.

"Billy" Sunday can still swat the baseball as hard a crack as he can the highball.

Calling a blockade a blockade is just as commendable as calling a spade a spade.

A Rip Van Winkle Elected.—Headline. Nothing new in American politics.

J. BULL—"NOT SO FAST."



"MR. WILSON'S SECRETARY OF STATE."

It should be reproduced.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: Your editorial "Mr. Wilson's Secretary of State" is so excellent that it should be reproduced in every journal at home and abroad. Bryan is a man without shame, and a man without shame is a man without honor. His proper position is with men like "Billy" Sunday or in some third class circus.
New York, March 17, 1915. S. NORMAN.

Why Shouldn't Mr. Bryan?

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I am a daily reader of The Tribune and have greatly enjoyed your exposure of fake advertising and the many good things you advocate. But I must say your cartoon and editorial on "Mr. Wilson's Secretary of State" is a disgrace.
Why shouldn't the Secretary of State engage in "a temperance revival"? You speak of it as a "shameful spectacle." Has The Tribune lost its sense of value or sold itself to the nation's worst foe?
The danger and menace to this nation are not what you imply in your editorial, but what Mr. Bryan was seeking to correct by securing total abstinence pledges.
Mr. Editor, a far more "shameful spectacle" than to see our Secretary of State engaged in helping to make a sober people is to see a great journal like The Tribune lending its influence to help demoralize the nation. I am a Republican, but if I thought your editorial represented the "spirit" of the party I should be one no longer.
A. K. FULLER.
Kingston, N. Y., March 17, 1915.

Compliments.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I have just read The Tribune of this date and want to compliment you very much for the incisive and scholarly article in column 1 of the editorial page. It is first class and ought to go all over the country and compel the resignation of Secretary Bryan.
Trenton, N. J., March 17, 1915. J. F. R.

Praise for Bryan.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I am glad to learn through the columns of The Tribune that Secretary Bryan appreciates the most important problem in our national affairs—namely, temperance. That Secretary Bryan should be found last Monday night engaged in furthering the cause of temperance throughout our land is most commendable and shows his possession of an enlightenment as to the nation's need of which his critics are bereft.
It should be a time of greatest rejoicing among us, instead of criticism, that our nation's greatest officials should be so interested in the people's well. The Czar of Russia amid "international problems" far more trying than ours found it not beneath his dignity nor an incumbrance upon his time and attention to give his hand and seal to the destruction of his nation's greatest enemy—vodka.
M. SMITH.
Brooklyn, March 17, 1915.

"Sorrow, Not Anger."

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: Anything more contemptible than your leading editorial of to-day would be hard to imagine.
Isn't there some one in your office intelligent enough to know that such an editorial must harm The Tribune vastly more than it can hurt Bryan or Wilson?
I am not a Democrat nor an admirer of Mr. Bryan, but a few more exhibitions like this morning's should make all of your readers devout Democrats and Bryanites.
"More in sorrow than in anger."
JAMES ALBERT WALES.
Stamford, Conn., March 17, 1915.

Nothing Humiliating in It.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I have been a reader of The Tribune for a long time, and am much surprised at your editorial of March 17. I fail to see anything humiliating in the fact that Mr. Bryan was attending a religious or temperance meeting on Monday evening. Had he been attending a big reception or sitting in a box at some theatre would he have called forth any criticism?
This article of yours seems to be just a vicious kick at good morals. It is almost unbelievable that a paper like The Tribune could make an incident of this nature the occasion for such wholesale denunciation of our highest officials.
J. W. WITBECK.
Brooklyn, March 18, 1915.

JAPAN AND CHINA

Chinese Students Appeal for the Friendly Offices of the U. S.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: Allow me to call the attention of the readers of The Tribune to the vital importance to the United States of the enormous Japanese demands which threaten the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the new Chinese republic.
In the treaty of 1858 with China, signed at Tientsin, the United States promised in Article I, "if any other national should act unjustly or oppressively the United States will exert their good offices, on being informed of the case, to bring about an amicable arrangement of the question, thus showing their friendly feeling." There is no question that if the United States government would insist upon an "amicable arrangement" of the present difficulties Japan would gracefully yield to the just demand of your administration.

General Grant, writing from Peking in 1879, foresaw the transforming influences already at work among the people and made the prediction that "in less than half a century Europe will be complaining of the too rapid advance of China." In view of the great events that have already taken place in China and the rapid strides she has been making in the organization of internal government, we cannot but admire the foresight of the great statesman and soldier who could have foreseen the new era that has now come upon China. Judging from recent developments, we can safely anticipate the future; what she now needs is that she be left unmolested in her steady development during this transitional stage. We urge, therefore, that the American nation should fulfill its treaty obligation and come to China's assistance in this crisis resulting from the unjust demands of the Japanese government.

Aside from the greater considerations, there are important advantages to be derived by the United States from her commercial relations with China. This is increasingly important in view of the completion of the Panama Canal. Again, it is wise for the Americans to permit an aggressive nation like Japan to build up a still larger empire in the East. Remember the Japanese agitation in California a year or so ago. It is almost a moral certainty that if the United States should get into war with a European power she would have Japan upon her back. So the time may come soon when China will have an opportunity to repay her obligations in full to the American people.

America is no longer isolated. She must play her part in the world's politics. While she may not make any "entangling alliances" she cannot disregard changes in other countries affecting her vital interests. The young men of China urge the American people to continue to stand by their traditional friendly relations with a sister republic. If the Americans do not fail the Chinese, the Chinese will not fail them.

Z. T. NYL,
Chairman of the Chinese Students' Alliance,
Eastern Section, U. S. A.
New York, March 13, 1915.

Asks Light on Blockades.

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I notice in your to-day's issue that you refer to England's declaring "a paper blockade" of the German ports, and think that the United States should protest. I am at a loss to understand this, and would ask, either through the Reader's Forum or in any way you may see fit, to please explain. Is not England in a position to enforce a blockade and in what way does her action differ from that of this country during the Civil War in regard to the Southern ports? European nations accepted the North's blockade declaration, and this blockade was a very effective means of ending the war, so why should this or any other neutral country protest when England blockades the German ports?

I am wondering why England ever waited until Germany declared a war zone about the British Isles. The North did not wait any such action on the part of the South during the Civil War to declare a blockade. I see "The New York Press" is of the same opinion. I would very much appreciate light on this subject.
READER.
Dover, N. J., March 16, 1915.

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The Conning Tower

THE GRAND TOUR

SAN DIEGO.

At the Chicago Fair they had wheel chairs, man-propelled. I remember how sorry I used to feel for the men who pushed them, and how one day I ran away from my mother because she rode in one. I have grown callous to suffering that is no acuter than that felt by a man who has to push a wheel-chair. . . . But the automobile, as the farmer said when he looked at his run-over chicken, has changed all that. At San Diego you hire a 2-passenger, self-starting, left-drive, universal keyboard, car, yelet the Electricquette. It runs on first and only speed, at the rate of about 2 1/2 miles an hour. The price is a dollar an hour. It is fine, safe sport. Only, drunk with my success as chauffeur, I am afraid I have a case of automobile fever. (Note to Miss Spill, the telephone girl: Tell all automobile salesmen who call up that I won't be back for five or six years. Tell Louis not to forward anything that looks like an automobile catalogue.)

It is so pleasant to be outside here, so beautiful, that you don't care much about going in to see the exhibits. There is, I suppose, a lot of stuff to see in the buildings. I looked at all of it, and found most of it of the "interesting" variety. I am narrow and bigoted, and I don't care whether the San Joaquin Valley raises better raisins than Imperial County can—and does—boast of. All these things the visitors may learn. Ninety per cent of the world's mustard is grown somewhere or other; Riverside has the Most Equable Climate in the World; there is sunshine forever in the Coachella Valley; there are 12,000 colonies of bees in San Bernardino County; and so on forever. It convinces you, if you never knew it before—and I didn't know—that California is a large state; that it can produce and does produce everything that can be grown anywhere, and produces most things better and more plentifully than any other state.

The "Isthmus" is San Diego's Midway Plaisance. It is as clean and moral as a cake of soap. It has two of the best shows ever staged. I went to them reluctantly, as part of the job, but I had a fine time. One is the Painted Desert Exhibit, which is a reproduction of a New Mexican Indian village, seven acres of Indians, pueblos, woven baskets, ponies and burros, vegetation—everything. The other is the Panama Canal Exhibit, which is given in a theatre. The stage is 200 feet long, which looks longer than the Hippodrome stage. The curtain rises and shows the Isthmus in miniature—houses, trains, mountains, lakes, the Culebra Cut, the oceans, wireless stations, ships going through the locks—all of it the finest and biggest and truest toy imaginable. It shows a day on the Isthmus, and the color and lighting effects are something Mr. Belasco might be proud of.

And I had two glasses of perfect cider, too, just out of the press. I knew the apples personally a second before they were fed to the machine. It is better than picking out your fish as it swims, to be caught and cooked for your breakfast. Mr. Burbank probably will arrange it before long so that you may point to the cow and the peach tree you want your ice-cream from. The cider girl was reading "Ishmael, or In the Depths" and I apologize hereby for having interrupted her.

The biggest cocoa firm in Dorchester, Mass., has an exhibit here. I asked one of the girls whether she was at the Chicago Fair, and she said no. I may not be so schooled in dialect as the professor in "Pygmalion," but I do know the Quincy accent. I asked her which Boston suburb she came from. She was from Braintree and before coming out here, where she now lives, she summered at Egypt, not far from Ham Welch's tennis-court and only a mile or so from Howard Frye's. She is very pretty, and her name is Marian Howes, and the world, as she so aptly put it, isn't very big after all, is it?

Pasted Jewels

William Allen White, writing in "The Emporia Gazette," claims that as a result of Kansas being "dry" there has been a saving of \$20 per capita, and he then announces that he can furnish an itemized statement of the manner in which this \$20 is spent. He submits the following:

Subscription to "Commoner".....	\$1.00
Phonograph record of "Old Black Joe".....	.45
Ditto of "We Shall Meet Beyond the River".....	.45
2 celluloid collars at 18c.....	.36
1 mail order outer yellow shoes.....	2.20
1 set of the works of Bulwer-Lytton.....	1.75
1,000 shares of Mexican mine stock.....	2.25
2 cakes of scented toilet soap.....	.15
1 pigs-in-clover puzzle.....	.10
1 box mail-order cigars.....	1.65
1 copy of "The Life and Times of James A. Garfield".....	1.40
Chautauqua season ticket.....	2.00
For the heathen in Borneo.....	.10
For the ditto in Formosa.....	.05
For the ditto in Guatemala.....	.05
4 bottles of cologne water.....	.35
Peanuts and chewing gum.....	6.00
1 Brazilian diamond scarfpin.....	.40
1 copy of "Night Life in Chicago".....	.10
1 copy of "Confessions of an Actress".....	.10
Postage on 62 applications for government documents.....	.62
Postage on 38 answers to fake advertisements.....	.76
1 divining rod.....	2.00
4 pounds of stick candy.....	.24
Subscription to "Ed. Howe's Monthly".....	.10
1 genuine Gaunerium violin (by mail).....	2.10
1 madstone.....	.15
Total.....	\$20.00